REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith. The present response is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 28-61 are pending in this application. Claims 28 and 45-61 are independent. Claims 1-27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 28-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,929,898 to Tanoi.

Claim 28 recites, *inter alia*:

> "...detecting means for matching phases of the first base band signal, the second base band signal, and a third base band signal, and comparing these signals to detect an edit position at which the first base band signal and the second base band signal are connected, the third base band signal being obtained by editing the first base band signal and the second base band signal;
>
> re-encoding means for re-encoding the third base band signal to generate a third encoded bit stream; and
>
> controlling means for controlling said re-encoding means to selectively re-use the first encoded bit stream or first codec information used to generate the first base band signal and the second encoded bit stream or second codec information used to generate the second base band signal corresponding to the edit position detected by said detecting means to re-encode the third base band signal." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 5,929,898 to Tanoi (hereinafter, merely "Tanoi") relates to a multi-point control unit for use in a multi-point videoconference system which has a plurality of videoconference terminals.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Tanoi that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 28.

Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portions of Tanoi in the Office Action relied upon; specifically, column 4, lines 25-54 and column 5, lines 38-41, do not teach or suggest the above-identified feature of claim 28.

As understood by Applicants, the cited portion of Tanoi, column 4, lines 25-54 and column 5, lines 38-41, discloses a technique for picture combining. After a determination is made as to what pictures will be combined into a combined signal, an encoder encodes and compresses the combined signal into a picture signal. The cited portions of Tanoi also disclose that a timing signal is produced which is synchronous with a frame of the combined signal and which provides an operation timing of the encoder controller.

Applicants submit that such a disclosure does not render claim 28 unpatenable.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Tanoi that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 28. Specifically, Applicants submit that Tanoi fails to teach or suggest detecting means for matching phases of the first base band signal, the second base band signal, and a third base band signal, and comparing these signals to detect an edit position at which the first base band signal and the second base band signal are connected, the third base band signal being obtained by editing the first base band signal and the second base band signal, re-encoding means for re-encoding the third base band signal to generate a third encoded bit stream, and controlling means for controlling said re-encoding means to

selectively re-use the first encoded bit stream or first codec information used to generate the first base band signal and the second encoded bit stream or second codec information used to generate the second base band signal corresponding to the edit position detected by said detecting means to re-encode the third base band signal, as recited in claim 28.

Therefore, claim 28 is patentable. For reasons similar to those above, claims 45-39 are also patentable.

Claim 50 recites, *inter alia*:

> "...re-encoding means for re-encoding a third base band signal to generate a third encoded bit stream, the third base band signal being obtained by editing a first base band signal and a second band signal, the first base band signal being obtained by decoding a first encoded bit stream, the second base band signal being obtained by decoding a second encoded bit stream; and
>
> controlling means for controlling said re-encoding means to selectively re-use the first encoded bit stream or first codec information used to generate the first base band signal and the second encoded bit stream or second codec information used to generate the second base band signal corresponding to an edit position at which the first base band signal and the second base band signal are connected and that is detected by matching the phases of the first base band signal, the second base band signal, and the third base band signal and comparing these signals to re-encode the third base band signal." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, the cited portion of Tanoi, column 5, lines 43-50, column 5, lines 51-59, and column 5, lines 60-67, discloses that the controller receives the same signal as the picture combing section receives. It then detects movement quantity of the object in each frame of each picture in synchronization with a timing signal. An encoder control signal is then formed in accordance with the movement quantity detected. The encoder encodes the combined signal in accordance with the movement quantity of the object in each picture.

Applicants submit that such a disclosure does not render claim 50 unpatenable.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Tanoi that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 50. Specifically, Applicants submit that Tanoi fails to teach or suggest re-encoding means for re-encoding a third base band signal to generate a third encoded bit stream, the third base band signal being obtained by editing a first base band signal and a second band signal, the first base band signal being obtained by decoding a first encoded bit stream, the second base band signal being obtained by decoding a second encoded bit stream and controlling means for controlling said re-encoding means to selectively re-use the first encoded bit stream or first codec information used to generate the first base band signal and the second encoded bit stream or second codec information used to generate the second base band signal corresponding to an edit position at which the first base band signal and the second base band signal are connected and that is detected by matching the phases of the first base band signal, the second base band signal, and the third base band signal and comparing these signals to re-encode the third base band signal, as recited in claim 50.

Therefore, claim 50 is patentable. For reasons similar to those above, claims 51-61 are also patentable

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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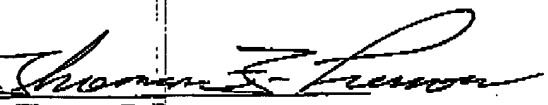
By 

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